



PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Joins 29 Attorneys General in Urging the Federal Government to Take Action against Spoof Robocalls

BALTIMORE, MD (July 5, 2017) – In a letter sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on Monday, Attorney General Frosh and a bi-partisan group of 29 attorneys general are urging the federal government to adopt rules that would allow telephone providers to block illegal robocalls.

The FCC has requested public comment on rules that would allow providers to block several types of “spoofed” calls, in which a call appears to be coming from one number, but is actually coming from a different number. Scammers frequently use spoofed calls to hide their identity and to trick consumers into believing that their calls are legitimate.

“We urge the FCC to crackdown on these robocalls. They are most often scammers trying to take hard-earned money from unsuspecting consumers,” said Attorney General Frosh. “While robocalls will never completely disappear – having the FCC take action can prevent potential harm to millions of consumers. Consumers should always be wary of answering calls from numbers they do not recognize and should never give out personal information.”

Currently, regulatory roadblocks prevent telecommunications companies from blocking many illegal robocalls. If the new rules are adopted, providers would be allowed to block calls coming from invalid numbers, unallocated numbers, and numbers whose owners have requested be blocked. For example, phone providers would be able to block a scammer that is using a telephone number that clearly can’t exist because it hasn’t been assigned.

The letter sounds the alarm about the growing number of telephone scam complaints across the country and supports the FCC’s proposal to remove regulatory roadblocks. As the letter points out, “legitimate businesses do not need to use any of these methods to contact consumers.”

Attorney General Frosh was joined on the letter by the attorneys general of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

For a copy of the joint letter to the FCC, [click here](#).

For a copy of the notice of proposed rules, [click here](#).